

NEW YORK HERALD.

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PROPRIETOR AND EDITOR.

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The Mail for the Pacific.

THE NEW YORK WEEKLY HERALD.
The United States mail steamship Illinois, Captain Hart-
stone, will leave this port this afternoon, at two o'clock,
for Aspinwall.

The mails for California and other parts of the Pacific
will close at one o'clock.

The New York Weekly Herald—California edition—
with the latest intelligence from all parts of the world,
will be published at 10 o'clock this morning.

Single copies, sixpence. Agents will please send in
their orders as early as possible.

The News.

The Franklin, from Hayre and Southampton, ar-
rived at this port early yesterday morning, and
brought us our London and Paris files, with other
European advices, down to the 7th instant. The
Canada steamer Europa also reached Halifax last
evening, with dates to the 9th inst.

The local political affairs of the different continen-
tal countries remained in the same calm and easy
course; but the highest excitement prevailed in
every cabinet and capital with regard to the ulterior
issue of the Russo-Turkish question. The news that
the czar had made the first grand move, by march-
ing his troops into Moldavia, was confirmed, and had
created a most decided panic both upon the London
Exchange and Paris Bourse; but the funds rallied
after an interchange of communications between
England and France, and the promulgation of a be-
lief that, by some political subtlety, the matter would
yet be settled by what were termed "honorable
negotiations." According to the advices brought
by the Europa, the difference of opinion with regard
to the Turkish question was so great among the
members of the British Ministry, that a dissolution
of the cabinet was at one time threatened.

The manifesto of the czar, and the dignified reply
of Reschid Pasha to Count Nesselrode, should be
read with attention, as well as the leading articles
upon this eventful crisis which we publish. Intellig-
ence from Vienna would lead to the opinion that
Austria had determined to attempt a peace media-
tion between Russia and Turkey. The debate upon
the subject in the British Parliament tends to confirm
the supposition that a compromise would yet be
effected.

The crops in France were still in a most critical
position, and another ministerial crisis was anti-
cipated at Madrid.

Commodore Vanderbilt had arrived at Havre from
Russia in the North Star, and the magnificent Bos-
ton clipper Sovereign of the Seas had performed an
unparalleled marine feat by running from New York
into the Mersey in thirteen days and nineteen
hours.

The last monetary and commercial intelligence,
with some Australian details, will be found else-
where.

By the arrival of the brig Pedraza, Captain Dorrie,
at this port yesterday, we received files of Ba-
hama papers down to the 2d inst. They contain no
political news of importance, nor any other intelli-
gence which would interest our readers.

We have received our files of the *Madras Exam-
iner* down to the 20th of May. The attention of the
East India journals was entirely given to matters of
local interest and English news. They consequently
contain no intelligence which is of importance to the
American reader. Cholera, fever, and dysentery,
raging at Jellicherry amongst the fishermen and
Moplahs. The weather was unusually warm. We
are gratified to learn from the papers that our
countryman, Captain Gilson, of the schooner Flirt, is now
probably on his way to his home and freedom, hav-
ing escaped, as reported, from the Dutch prison at
Batavia.

One of the most soul-thrilling casualties that has
ever occurred at Niagara is recorded in the despatches
from the Falls under the telegraphic head. Last
Monday evening three men—two of them named
John Able and Andrew Hannaman, and the other a
stranger—got adrift in a small boat just above the
frightful abyss, over which the two latter were
buried, and instantly dashed to atoms. Able, when
near the verge of the foaming cataract, succeeded in
reaching a rock, to which he clung till about six
o'clock last evening. The anxiety of the people on
shore to rescue the unfortunate man from his perilous
situation was most intense throughout the day. But
if the feelings of the spectators were aroused to such
a pitch what must have been the thoughts of him
who was almost certain of eventually becoming a
prey to the roaring torrent? Every scheme that hu-
man ingenuity could devise was resorted to; lifeboats
were brought from Buffalo, and provisions were floated
to him on rafts. Late in the afternoon he succeeded in
placing himself on one of these rafts, and was on the
point of stepping from it into a lifeboat, when, to the
dismay and horror of the spectators on shore, the
boom came in collision with the raft with so much
violence as to pitch poor Able into the water. Still
undaunted, he struck out boldly for a small island in
the vicinity; but the current overpowered his already
exhausted physical energies, and, after thus desper-
ately struggling for life, and tenaciously clinging
for twenty hours to a slippery rock, which itself could
scarcely withstand the impetuous force of the stream,
the victim was swept into eternity. One wild, pierc-
ing shriek, and all was over.

The Massachusetts Constitutional Convention, by
the casting vote of the President, yesterday rejected
the proposition to permit the election of State officers
by a plurality vote.

Governor Seymour's nominees for New York har-
bor masters, &c., still hang fire in the State Senate.
The only confirmations made in executive session
yesterday consisted of a few notaries. Several bills
were passed, among them one restricting municipa-
l corporations from borrowing money on the strength of
their corporations. Most of the forenoon was de-
voted to the consideration of the Railroad Tax and
Toll bill, which affords gentlemen a fine opportunity
of displaying their opinions upon internal improve-
ments generally, and canals and railroads particu-
larly. In the afternoon the House set back the Supply
bill, with numerous amendments and alterations.
The Senate, according to our special correspondent's
despatch, disagreed to one appropriating ten
thousand dollars for the benefit of the New York
Volunteers who served in the campaign against Mex-
ico. The Assembly having raised the appropriation
for Legislative expenses from thirty thousand to fifty
thousand dollars, a motion was made to again cut it
down to the former sum. A debate ensued, in the
course of which it was stated that the presiding offi-
cers of both Houses would refuse to sign certificates
for services pretended to have been rendered during
the recess of the Legislature, and consequently it was
immaterial what might be the amount appropriated.
The Speaker of the Assembly announced that he
would to-day name the Board of Managers to prose-
cute the charges against Canal Commissioner Mather
before the Court of Impeachment.

The corner stone of St. Peter's Church, Mill street,
Poughkeepsie, was laid yesterday, with the usual
Roman Catholic ceremonies, by the Rev. Archbishop
Bohman. There was a large concourse of people pre-
sent when his Grace delivered the sermon, in which
he contended that the rites and ceremonies used by
the Roman Catholics in laying the corner stone of a
church were indispensable to render the edifice a
holy one. A full report will be published hereafter.

We to-day publish a variety of telegraphic de-
spatches, and many columns of other interesting
reading, to which we have no room to refer particu-
larly. The headings of the different articles will be
found sufficiently explicit, to give the reader a pretty
exact idea of their contents.

The Russian Invasion of Moldavia—European Prospects.

The Russians have crossed the Pruth. Men-
aces, which many regarded as mere empty bomb-
ast, have been executed to the letter, and the
equilibrium of Europe has been fairly over-
turned. Nicholas has once more placed before Eu-
rope the issue of peace or war.

Readers of the *HERALD* will not have been
taken by surprise by the Franklin's news. On
2d July instant we showed how the occupation
of Moldavia and Wallachia by the czar was a
mere compromise between defeat and aggres-
sion, and how, under the treaty of Balta-Liman,
the movement was so far authorized that the
Western powers could hardly view it as a *casus
belli*. We then stated that we entertained no
doubt of the Russian troops advancing into the
Principalities, and we added that while France,
whose interest is all on the side of war, might
probably refuse to allow the same latitude to the
Balta-Liman treaty as Great Britain, whose
only desire is peace, still the general aspect of
European affairs was decidedly pacific. We see
no reason to alter these views. Events have
fulfilled our predictions, and the designs we
then imputed to the various courts of Europe
have since been openly avowed by their organs.

In the first place, the Russian troops are, as
we said, on the southern bank of the Pruth. Not
a shot has been fired or a sword drawn. The
passage of the river was as quiet and as un-
disturbed as an evolution at a review. Peasants
saw without surprise the return of the same
men who had garrisoned Bucharest and Jassy
three years before, and who, notwithstanding
their exactions, had never been regarded as
invaders by the Moldavians or Wallachians. Even
the Turks, who had protested so loudly against
the infraction of their treaties and rights, suffered
the Cossacks to approach their quarters without
challenge and without resistance. That a similar
line of tactics would be pursued if the Russians
advanced southward and attempted to cross the
Danube is of course too improbable for belief; but
we cannot regard such a movement as being itself
more likely to occur. Difficult as it is to elicit
from the past policy of Russia any evidence of
their present designs, we are adventuring much
when we predict that they will be content with
what they have done already; but such is,
nevertheless, our firm belief, and for its adoption
we have substantial reasons. Russian ambi-
tion may be very potent at St. Petersburg; but
the sceptre of sagacity has not passed away from
the czar, and we are loath to entertain any
theory which would take for granted his will-
ingness to engage singly in a war with all
the powers of Europe. The possible gain of
such an enterprise would not compare for a
moment with the probable loss. Prosperous as
Russia now is, the czar could not undertake to
defend his empire against the combined attacks
of France, England and Austria, or to hold
any new conquests in spite of these foes, with-
out a ruinous interruption of the trade of the
Baltic and the Black Sea, and a clear prospect
of internal dissensions. The Nesselrode party
would take advantage of the discontent to fo-
ment disaffection at home; and nearly balanced
as the two rival factions are, it is very doubtful
whether the influence of Nicholas and Con-
stantine could retain the preponderance in
favor of the court. Nor is Turkey a foe to be
utterly despised. Greeks and Albanians would
be found in her army, fighting under the Mus-
sulin standard, to protect their independent
church from the thralldom of the czar. Cau-
casians and Georgians would pour in upon Russia
from the West, and all the hopes of Russian
aggrandizement in Asia would fall to the
ground. Poland would rise from her ashes,
and, the dust of the last forty years swept off
by the whirlwind of war, the live embers
would glow into a flame which alone would
require all Moscow to quench. Tribes of
Tartars now helplessly despoiled of their ter-
ritory by Russian invaders, would imbibe fresh
vigor from the prospect, and commence a scene
of retribution that is frightful to contemplate.
All these contingencies are fully foreseen at St.
Petersburg. Russia has been once invaded during
this century, and though the foe was but one
nation out of the host which would now rise
against her, her safety was only purchased by
the sacrifice of her capital and a ruinous cam-
paign. A second Moscow would be but an
insignificant check to an invading army of
French, Austrians, Turks, English, and Poles.
We cannot bring ourselves to expect a war.

France and England have acted precisely as
we anticipated. The former is eager for hos-
tilities. The *Monitor* has not yet spoken; but
the public is being prepared for a rupture
by articles in other journals, which, though not
directly official, are yet known to speak the
sentiments of the French Emperor. Paris cor-
respondents do not hesitate to attribute the pa-
ternity of the article in the *Constitutionnel*,
which we publish in another column, to the Em-
peror himself. We need hardly draw the
attention of our readers to this performance—
it speaks for itself. When the head of the
French government tells us that "the entry of
the Russians into Moldavia constitutes, what-
ever may be said of it, a most manifest and
flagrant *casus belli*,"—when all the Paris press,
of whatever color and party, unite in this view
of the event, and announce that "France will
be ready to take her part in the conflict," we
may fairly regard our predictions as verified.
The idea of appealing to the people on the
question of peace or war, and taking their
sense by a *plébiscite*, is well worthy of the
originality of Napoleon III. Whether he suc-
ceeds or not, however, in arousing the martial
order of France, the real decision of the ques-
tion will still rest with England.

British opinion has not varied on the point.
The London press is unanimous in denoun-
cing the conduct of Russia; but those
journals which may be supposed to speak the
sentiments of the Aberdeen cabinet have care-
fully abstained from informing their readers
that it constitutes a legitimate ground for war.
The decision originally arrived at by the
Council, when the occupation of the Principal-
ities was first threatened, is still main-
tained now that the event has taken place.
England is vastly indignant at the
palpable dishonesty of Russia; but her
feelings are controlled by her interest, and
that requires the preservation of the trade
of the Baltic. If Russia advanced still farther,
and menaced the very existence of the Ottoman
Empire it would still need a vast deal of courage
on the part of the cabinet to announce to the
British nation that they were again to be plunged
into war. Public sentiment may hereafter be
roused to a warlike pitch, but for the present
such an event is highly improbable, and our ac-
counts from Europe are, on the whole, clearly
in favor of peace.

The Late Steamboat Disaster—Verdict of the Jury.

The usual ceremonies attendant upon
steamboat disasters have been concluded in
the case of the Empire—a temporary excite-
ment, a hearing, and a sentence, compose the
drama, and then the curtain drops and shuts
the affair from the world forever. Mangled bod-
ies and scattered limbs are hurried to the
tomb, where the formula is ended, and the wait-
ings of the bereaved are hushed by the din and
bustle of the world. The last act has been per-
formed in regard to the late disaster upon the
Hudson river, and the verdict of the Coroner's
jury will be found in another column.

The verdict throws the greatest blame
upon the captain of the sloop, but at the same
time it censures the officers of the Empire.
Our opinion is that a steamer, having more
power and control over her movements than a
sloop, might reasonably be expected to accom-
plish the most in avoiding a collision. This is
a matter, however, of but little importance, as
a mere sentence amounts to less than the ink
and paper necessary to record it. Unless the
Grand Jury are recommended to act in the
matter it is to be considered that "nobody is
to blame."

On Monday last we published an article upon
steamboat disasters, in which the steamboat
commissioners were censured for apparent neg-
lect of their duties. In consequence of that
article we have been called upon by Mr. Henry
B. Renwick, one of the commissioners, from
whom we obtained the following facts, which
we willingly give in our columns:

The steamboat laws, as passed originally, went
into full force on the first day of January 1853,
at the West and in this place on the first day
of March. It was then postponed, by special
resolution, permitting inspectors to grant boats
permits to run although not fitted until June 1,
1853, provided the inspectors were satisfied that
the owners of these boats were diligently
fitting them in compliance with the law.

The inspectors for this district entered on
their duties in January. They have granted
provisional permits, as above, to some seventy
or eighty vessels; have directed personally, to a
greater or less extent, as to the fittings of all
passenger vessels registered or licensed at this
port, and have since, or not long prior to June
1, boarded and examined seventy odd vessels
in order to see, as far as could be done
without a thorough test, whether they were
provided with pumps, life preservers, gauges,
provisions against fire, &c. To all these ves-
sels, when, after a series of visits they were
found to be fully equipped, they granted pro-
visional permits entitling them to run until
such time as the inspectors could, in turn,
thoroughly inspect them. Two weeks or there-
abouts after the first of June were spent in
such visits, and in warning vessels unfitted not
to run or they would be reported for prosecution.

When the instruments were in proper order,
and these warnings had been given and pre-
liminary examinations made, the inspectors be-
gan to inspect thoroughly. They have been
detained by breakage of instruments, &c., but
everything is now in proper order, and they
hope to complete the inspection of all boats in
the course of four to five months, being at the
same time determined to go thoroughly through
with each vessel, even if some should, from
want of time, not be inspected at all.

They have made thorough inspection of
twenty vessels, and in the course of their duty
have discovered defects in boilers, have condemn-
ed life preservers in large numbers as unreliable,
and have ordered additional floating power to
be applied to lifeboats besides requiring altera-
tions in the fittings of vessels and their equip-
ments. Repairs, additions, or substitution of per-
fect for imperfect articles have generally been
made with promptness by steamboat owners.
The inspectors have, also, during the last four
and a half months, licensed 143 pilots and 337
engineers.

The recommendations of these officers are
voluminous, and on file in the inspectors' office.
The examination of the engineers was a matter
demanding much time; so was their classification
into the various grades prescribed by the law.

The inspectors have repeatedly requested aid
in order that their duties could be performed
more promptly and more completely. This has
been refused, and perhaps with good reason,
on the ground that the law did not provide for
it. The law, in their opinion, has already done
great good, but its effects cannot be judged of
until it has worked for some time.

The New Mail Route to the Pacific.—The Contract entered into by the United States Postmaster General with Col. Ramsey & Co.

for the transportation of mails between New
Orleans and San Francisco, went into operation
last Monday. By this new arrangement, which
gains some 2,000 miles of ocean route, the ex-
press mail leaves Vera Cruz on the Atlantic and
Acapulco on the Pacific on the 4th and 18th of
each month, meeting at Mitapeca a central point
in the interior, and distant from each of those
ports about thirty-six hours, making the land
route across the republic only occupying seventy
two hours. The mail leaving New Orleans on the
1st and 14th of each month will arrive at
Vera Cruz so as to be conveyed thence on the
4th and 18th. It is expected that, when the
line is in good working order, to reduce the
distance of time between New Orleans and San
Francisco to twelve days. General Santa Anna
is most favorably disposed towards the project,
and the *alcaldes* or magistrates along the
line have been directed to afford the contrac-
tors and their servants every facility.

Turned Up in Australia.—Mr. Thomas Warner, the same, we doubt not, who, a few years ago, was a resident of this city, has turned up as a solicitor and proctor in Melbourne, Australia.

He says, in his advertisement in the *Re-
former* of that town, that:

"Persons from America, or who may have legal or
commercial business there, can obtain every infor-
mation from T. Warner; from his long residence and
legal practice there he flatters himself his services
may be particularly beneficial to those who contract
American business in his charge."

The Fishery Question.—Another King.—We are informed by telegraph from Washington that the fishery question may possibly hang fire till the re-assembling of Congress.

A new element is said to have come in to delay negotia-
tions. Wonderful! What can it be? Mr. Cran-
ston H. B. M. minister at Washington, has just
returned from a trip down east. Has he
discovered this new element? Wonder what it
can be? We have been afraid of this, but it
will never do to give it up. Never.

The Opera at Castle Garden.—The new opera company of Max Maretzek prospers very favorably, and by the Castle Garden has become a most fashionable and popular place of rendezvous.

"Robert the Devil" was pre-
sented for the second and last time to a large audi-
ence on Monday night, and this evening "Felix d'Amour"
to be given, with Madame Sontag as Adina, and
Bella, and Rogers in the principal male characters.

Diplomatic Relations of the United States with Spain.

The Hon. Pierre Soulé is about embarking for
Europe, to enter on his diplomatic duties at the
court of Madrid. His reception by the Spanish
government will be awaited with much interest; but
as he goes under instructions from the Executive
department of the United States, it seems hardly
probable that the Spanish ministry will inquire into
the individual opinions of our ambassador with re-
gard to any topic which is likely to be the subject
of discussion between the two countries, before they
shall conclude to receive or reject him.

The diplomatic relations between the United
States and Spain have formerly been a subject of
great interest, and, at times, of embarrassment and
difficulty; but all questions in dispute between the
two countries have heretofore been settled to the
satisfaction of Americans generally; and been ac-
quired in Spain, in some cases certainly with re-
luctance, but as a matter of necessity.

AMERICAN MINISTERS TO SPAIN.
The following gentlemen have represented the
United States at the court of Spain, since the adop-
tion of the constitution, viz.:

Appointed.
William Carmichael, of Maryland, Charge..... 1790
Wm. Carmichael and Wm. Short, Commission-
ers..... 1792

William Short, of Virginia, Minister resident..... 1794
MINISTERS PLENIPOTERENTIARY AND ENVOYS EXTRA-
ORDINARY.

Thomas Pinckney, of South Carolina..... 1796
David Humphreys, Connecticut..... 1799

Charles Pinckney, South Carolina..... 1801
James Monroe, Virginia..... 1803

James Bowdoin, Massachusetts..... 1804
George W. Erving, do..... 1814

John Forsyth, Georgia..... 1819
Hugh Nelson, Virginia..... 1823

Alexander Leitch, Massachusetts..... 1825
Cornelius E. Van Ness, Vermont..... 1829

*William T. Barry, Kentucky..... 1835
John H. Eaton, Tennessee..... 1835

Jarvis Vail (Charge), New York..... 1840
Washington Irving, New York..... 1842

Romulus M. Saunders, North Carolina..... 1842
Daniel M. Barnard, do..... 1849

Pierre Soulé, Louisiana..... 1853
*Soulé departed at Liverpool, on his way to Spain, on
the 30th of August, 1853.

SPANISH MINISTERS TO THE UNITED STATES.

During the first administration under the consti-
tution, (that of Washington,) Spain was represented
in this country by Messrs. Jaudenes and Viar, in
the capacity of commissioners, or ministers resi-
dent. The first minister plenipotentiary sent by
Spain to the United States, was the Chevalier Car-
los Martinez de Yrujo. He arrived after the treaty
of 1795, and his commission was renewed in 1801,
when he was created or became a marquis. He was
the last Spanish minister in America before the
restoration of the royal family of the Bourbons and
the accession of Ferdinand VII. The successors of
the Marquis de Yrujo have been as follows:—

Appointed.
Don Luis de Onís..... 1819

Don Francisco Dionisio Vives..... 1820
Don Jose de la Cruz..... 1824

Don Antonio Tacón..... 1830
Don Angel Calderon de la Barca..... 1836

Chevalier Larrazabal..... 1840
Don Angel Calderon de la Barca..... 1844

*Don Luis Onís was appointed Minister to the United
States by the Emperor of Mexico, but that that dis-
tinction was, in the name of King Ferdinand VII., in
June, 1840. On his arrival in the United States, he pre-
sented his credentials to our government at Washington,
but the case of Mr. Madison refused to recognize him.
As he had been Minister to the United States, he was
received and recognized by virtue of new creden-
tials, signed by Ferdinand VII.

When the declaration of independence by the
United States took place, in 1776, Spain was mis-
tress of half the continent of South America; she
was one of the most powerful nations of Europe, not
only from her own wealth, valuable colonies, and a
numerous and well-appointed army and navy, but in
consequence of an intimate connection with France.
The "unhappy compact" adopted by the treaty of Paris
of 1763, an alliance between all the Princes of the
House of Bourbon, more especially the crowns of
France and Spain, still existed. By that instru-
ment those two powers mutually guaranteed their
State and possessions, and assumed, as the basis of
their alliance, the diplomatic maxim, "He who attacks
one attacks the other." All the American possessions
of Spain were entire—she enjoyed an active, ex-
tensive, and lucrative commerce, and was as deter-
mined to maintain it as England herself.

After arrangements had been made by the Con-
tinental Congress to obtain the assistance of France,
one of the most subjects of attention was Spain.
As early as December, 1776, it was resolved to send
Commissioners to that country, and in the early part
of 1777, Mr. Franklin was appointed the first envoy
to Spain, though he never went to that court; but,
while in France, he addressed a letter to the Count
d'Aranda, at that time the French minister to the
United States. In this letter, dated in April, 1777, Franklin informs the Spanish
minister at Congress, in December, 1776, had re-
solved "that if his Catholic Majesty will join with
the United States in a war against Great Britain,
they will assist in reducing to the possession of Spain
the two bad harbors of Pensacola, provided the
inhabitants of the United States shall use the free
navigation of the Mississippi, and the use of the har-
bor of Pensacola;" also that Congress would assist
Spain in the conquest of the English West India
islands.

Spain showed great reluctance to take a part in
the war declared by France against England, in 1777;
and the measures adopted by France to induce
her to this step were at first received with coolness.
Spain, indeed by her former contests, though then
of recent date, and holding, herself, extensive
and valuable colonies, did not view the struggles
of the Americans against Great Britain with en-
tire complacency. Pownall, an English writer
of that period, prophesied with remarkable exact-
ness, the time and manner of the emancipation of
Spanish America; and though the Spanish govern-
ment might have had little faith in such predictions,
could not have been ignorant that the example
of the British North American colonies would have
been attended with pernicious consequences to other
European nations holding foreign possessions.
France exceedingly desired the assistance of Spain
in the war into which she was about to enter, par-
ticularly as the navies of the two kingdoms were,
united, greatly superior to that of England at that
time. The French King (Louis XVI.) even wrote,
in the beginning of the year 1778, letters in his own
and to his Catholic Majesty, urging him to enter
into the coalition against England.

The answer of the King of Spain, Charles III.,
was extremely cold and circumspcct. He was natu-
rally of a pacific turn, then much advanced in
life, and not disposed to disturb the remainder of
his days by a destructive war. Determined to avoid
hostilities, he despatched instructions to his minister
at London to offer the mediation of his court. This
and three other plans proposed by Spain successively
failed. England could not forgive France for her
interference in the affairs of North America, and
repeatedly rejected all attempts at negotiation. In
June, 1779, the Spanish Minister withdrew from
the English port, and England having already com-
mitted acts of violence on the Spanish dominions, his
Catholic Majesty could no longer avoid the obliga-
tion of a treaty establishing the family compact.
War was accordingly declared between Spain and
England. Spain was probably induced to join the
league, from the expectation she had of recover-
ing her lost possessions in the former war with
England. Immediately after the rupture in 1779,
a Spanish force took possession of Baton Rouge, on the Mississippi, and finally
conquered from England the whole of West Florida.
The declaration of war, in June, 1779, was made
in consequence of a convention concluded with France
in the preceding April. The independence of the
thirteen United States was, however, not acknow-
ledged. That instrument, though by the treaty be-
tween France and the United States, Spain was en-
titled to trade in the Black Sea, at any moment,
with unfettered prospects for commerce on the eastern
coast of Africa, and the prospect of the African
slave trade, which had produced the African
slave, and have the benefit of all the stipulations.

Franklin having declined the mission to Spain,
Arthur Lee, of Virginia, was appointed by the Con-
tinental Congress Commissioner to Madrid. The
appointment was useless, as Lee was stopped at
Burgos, in 1777, by an agent of the Spanish govern-
ment; a small sum of money was promised for
military stores shipped from Bilbao; but Lee was
not allowed to proceed to Madrid. In September,
1779, John Jay, of New York, was appointed by
Congress Minister to Spain. He went to Madrid
in 1780, and remained there until the spring of 1782.
Although Mr. Jay did not succeed in making a
treaty, or obtaining the expected subsidies or assist-
ance from the Spanish court, he was accredited in
the usual official forms, and the United States derived
from that circumstance the advantage of having their
independence acknowledged by another of the
most powerful nations of Europe. Spain was not
willing to accede to the alliance between France and
the United States, for she felt apprehensive, un-
doubtedly, for her possessions in Florida and Louisi-
ana. She obviously anticipated many of the diffi-
culties that afterwards arose, and refused to grant to
the United States the free navigation of the Mississippi,
or to establish that river as the western boundary of
the United States.

During Mr. Jay's negotiations at Madrid, Spain
had no minister or representative in the United
States. Mr. Jay left that court in 1782; Mr. Wil-
liam Carmichael, who had been Secretary of Lega-
tion, remaining at Madrid as Charge d'Affaires. In
July, 1785, a Spanish Charge d'Affaires, Don Diego
Gardqui, was received and accredited by the Con-
tinental Congress. Upon the arrival of Gardqui at
Philadelphia, the negotiation was transferred to this
country, and Mr. Jay, then Secretary of State for
Foreign Affairs, was authorized by Congress to treat
respecting the boundaries between the United States
and the Spanish dominions. The subject was beset
with many difficulties, and remained in the hands
of the Secretary of State till the dissolution of the
Congress of the Confederation in 1789, and the orga-
nization of the United States government under the
constitution.

After many delays and attempts at negotiation by
American commissioners sent to Madrid, Mr.
Thomas Pinckney, of South Carolina, was appointed
Envoy Extraordinary to Spain, in November, 1794,
and arrived in Madrid in 1795. He was sent from
London as a special minister to Spain, with instruc-
tions from President Washington to propose a set-
tlement. Spain finally made a sacrifice of the limits
and the Mississippi, but it was done with the
utmost reluctance. It was not till October, 1795,
that the treaty was signed. Though Spain had no
doubt determined to make the sacrifice in the last
extremity, so much delay was again resorted to, that
Mr. Pinckney demanded his passports to return to
England, where he had been acting as the American
minister. This was properly a treaty only of limits
and navigation, for it did not contain any com-
mercial regulations. The boundaries both to the South
and the West were fixed agreeably to the demands
of the United States. It is usually called the treaty
of San Lorenzo el Real.

Every step of the negotiations of this country with
Spain has been marked with delays and difficulties.
It was fifteen years before Spain would consent to
define in a treaty the legitimate limits of the United
States, and yet the only boundary that could reason-
ably give rise to controversy, the southern bound-
ary of Georgia, was a very slight obstacle to the ter-
mination of the negotiation. After all, this boundary
was not drawn, nor the Spanish troops withdrawn, till
1798, three years after the signature of the treaty of
San Lorenzo el Real.

Spain was exceedingly opposed to the cession of
Louisiana by France to the United States in 1803,
and showed great reluctance to evacuate the ter-
ritory, which had been ceded by Spain to France in
1800, by a secret treaty, the Spanish authorities con-
tinuing in possession of Louisiana until 1803. In
the outset, a formal protest was made by the
Spanish court against the transfer to the United
States, but they were induced in the end to
withdraw it, and to give consent to the convention
of April, 1803, between France and the United
States. The very news of the transfer of Louisiana
to the United States at first awakened not only sur-
prise, but even indignation in Spain. Spain did
not, as it was, yield the whole province without an
angry and protracted discussion, which had nearly
involved the two countries in a war. Indeed, taken
in connection with the suspension of the right of
deposit at New Orleans, and the depredations on our
commerce, a committee of the House of Representa-
tives in Congress, reported, in January, 1806, that
there was ample cause for a declaration of war with
Spain.

The difficulties this country has had with Spain
respecting boundaries and territories, have been, in-
deed, remarkable. We may attribute this circum-
stance in some degree to the ignorance generally
existing respecting the countries in description,
they never having been surveyed at the time of
the various treaties. The discussion respect-
ing the portion of West Florida west of the
river Perdido began between the two governments
at the time of the cession of Louisiana, in 1803, and
was not concluded till 1810, when the Bourbon
royal family in Spain having been dethroned, the
United States government deemed it imprudent
longer to delay enforcing their right. Possession
was accordingly taken of that territory by Governor
Claiborne, of Louisiana, in 1810, by order of Presi-
dent Madison. The negotiations concerning the
eastern as well as the western boundaries of Louisi-
ana, were not only tedious and vexatious, but ex-
ceedingly intricate.

After various delays in the negotiations, these
matters were finally settled by the treaty signed by
John Quincy Adams, Secretary of State, and Don
Luis de Onís, the Spanish Minister, at Washington,
February 22, 1819, which treaty was after-
wards ratified by the Spanish government. By this
treaty, also, Florida was ceded to the United States
by Spain as an indemnity for spoils on American
commerce by French privateers either within
Spanish jurisdiction or condemned in Spanish
ports by French consuls.

The United States had no minister in Spain during
the troubles in that country, after 1807. The inter-
course was renewed again in 1814 by the appoint-
ment of George W. Erving, of Massachusetts, as
Minister Plenipotentiary.

The negotiations which resulted in the cession of
Florida, in 1819, were conducted with great ability
by Mr. Adams, Secretary of State, and Don Onís,
the Spanish Minister. Since that period our relations
with Spain have been of but little interest, except
the communications which have passed between the
two governments respecting Cuba, the particulars of
which were some time since published in the
HERALD, in the documents transmitted by President
Fillmore to Congress in July, 18